

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

There is a great variety of implants for use inside the human body. A typical biocompatible material generally used for making these implants is silicone. Making implants of silicone is most beneficial for reasons of production and function. However, It has been indicated that silicone might be involved in diseases that create fibrosis--such as SLE (Systemic Lupus ~~Ermatodis~~Erythematosus), although there is no evidence that this is the case. It is established, however, especially from breast-implants, that silicone implants in the human body do not last for ever -50% of implanted silicone implants were broken after 15 years, according to a large article published in the Lancet a couple of years ago. This indicates that the human body, at least to some extent, might break down the silicone material. Many other materials used for implants, like polyurethane, TeflonTM ~~-based material, or similar polymers, or combinations thereof,~~ may have the same problem.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25, as follows:

The property improving means may also comprise gas, such as air, contained in a multiplicity of cavities formed in the base material to improve the

flexibility of the base material. In this case, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) ("PTFE"), also known by the trade name TeflonTM, advantageously constitutes the base material. The cavities may be defined by net structures of the PTFE or TeflonTM material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, as follows:

FIG. 4 shows a cross-section of an elongate composite structure 22 of an embodiment of the invention, in which the self-supporting base material comprises poly(tetrafluoroethylene) ("PTFE"), also known by the trade name TeflonTM. The base material forms a longitudinal cavity in which a strong nylon band 24 slides. Property improving means in the form of gas, here air, contained in a multiplicity of cavities 26 are formed in the base material to improve the flexibility thereof. The external surface of the composite structure is coated with a cell barrier coating.